Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Taylor Regional Hospital (TRH) will be legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities for the management of this project. TRH is seeking to be the rural healthcare model for using electronic medical records to improve patient care for Kentucky and the Nation through TRH's Information Technology Plan. As information technology is proving to be a vital element in the administration of healthcare, development of a model is critical to ensure structures that are effective and efficient. It is TRH's proposal that by using an electronic medical record, an organization has the ability to capture, organize, and present relevant clinical information in a manner superior to the physical records currently in use. In the Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) the following guidelines for future information systems strategy decisions and planning at TRH will be followed:

A. Information technology solutions will be evaluated in terms of benefits realization,
cost and risk.

B. TRH will not invest in newer "leading edge" technology solutions without proven track records. Proposed new systems should be successfully installed in a significant percentage of other healthcare organizations. TRH will only invest in systems that have demonstrated to be cost effective, provide measurable benefits, and for which industry-wide technical standards are established.

C. All information system expenditures will be cost justified.

D. New information system proposals will include hardware, software, training, cabling, network, and installation cost unless said components are in place.

E. Provision of timely and accurate information technology toward improved patient care is a priority.

F. Application of information technology toward improved patient care is a priority. Clinical information systems must be useful and relevant to clinicians.

G. TRH information systems will be integrated to enhance productivity and minimize data redundancy.

H. TRH will work toward information solutions, which reduce the need for interfaces, by selecting software packages (when available) that will provide a seamless exchange of information with the Health Information System (HIS) database.

I. Interfaces between information systems will conform to the Health Level 7 (HL7).

J. Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 guidelines for privacy and security of patient information will be adhered to at the fullest level of compliance. Data integrity and security will be assured. All applications will have audit trails and error control capabilities. Security, privacy, and confidentiality will be maintained through appropriate protocols.

K. The disruption of patient care and general operations will be fully evaluated when making information technology decisions and implementing new systems.

L. Centralized management and operation of information technology solutions will be preferred over decentralized solutions.

M. Also identified in the ISSP are several systems under consideration for future implementation. They are clinical information system; documentation management; clinical data repository; clinical data repository; electronic medical record; picture archival and communication system; radiology information system; rehabilitation documentation system; physician access system; and surgery information system. Each of these potential new information systems are needed but assessments and cost/benefit analyses will be conducted to determine a priority for TRH.

Information System Strategy

This section outlines information system project plans in three categories: Approved Information Systems Plans, Potential New Information Systems, and Long Range Potential Systems.

A. Approved Information Systems

The following systems have been approved for implementation. Needs assessments have been conducted and approval received.

1. Image Distribution System

An image distribution system will allow for Radiology Images to be shared house wide as well as allow physicians the ability to view images remotely through a secure internet connection. An image distribution system is one of the many building blocks for a Picture Archival and Communication Systems (PACS). By enabling image distribution to clinician desktops, many of the benefits of a PACS can be utilized, while allocation of resources and infrastructure for a full-scale implementation take place. FUJIFILM Medical Systems will provide the Synapse Image Distribution System for Taylor Regional Hospital.

2. Community-Wide Scheduling

A community-wide scheduling application simplifies the process by which team members schedule patient appointments in various departments or facilities across the organization. In addition to streamlining patient appointment scheduling, the

application helps reduce scheduling errors and missed appointments. Furthermore, the application includes capabilities to manage resources efficiently and support managed care environments.

3. Laboratory Information System (LIS)

    A Laboratory Information System provides laboratories with the ability to automate processes such as medical necessity testing, specimen ordering and routing, and results reporting and tracking. By standardizing and streamlining the way these tasks are handled, LIS technology can aid laboratories in reducing the risk of error by eliminating duplicate and unauthorized tests while enhancing productivity. With a comprehensive laboratory information system, lab technologists can accelerate test turnaround, improve customer satisfaction, and devote more time to clinical issues. Cerner Corporation will be providing an upgrade to the current software package.

Mr. Gary Neat, Director of Information Technology at TRH will serve as the principal investigator/project director and key contact for this project. The estimated cost of this project is $7,200 for each year. TRH will provide all other financial support not covered by this project. The health care facilities that will be included in the network are Taylor Regional Hospital and all the affiliates associated with TRH:

- Site: Taylor Regional Hospital
- Address: 1700 Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-9615
- Phone: 270-465-3561

The project director will utilize the ISSP guidelines in reviewing and recommending to administration which of the clinical information systems should be implemented by priority.

A group of staff, administrators, and physicians have been identified and utilized as a project work group to assist in the recommendation of implementation.

For the duration of the project, the project director and work group will evaluate the information, which includes literature search conducted by the project director, software vendor information, cost information, and ISSP guidelines, to develop a finished product to be presented to the administration and board of directors at Taylor Regional Hospital.

By TRH obtaining this financial support, the telemedicine program will be enhancing services in south central Kentucky. As a Jewish network provider and as a Regional hospital, TRH will have a starting point of reference for many providers within the community to develop working relationships in enhancing some systems and development of others.